

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6428

BILL NUMBER: HB 1920

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 26, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Sanctions for ISTEP cheating.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Scholer

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
☐ **FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill allows the State Board of Education (the Board) to withdraw the accreditation of a school that fails to comply with a legal standard relating to accreditation. Provides that a school is responsible for any costs associated with rescoring or invalidating ISTEP scores due to the actions of a school employee.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:* Under the bill, the State Board of Education may remove the accreditation of a school that does not comply with Indiana statutes and rules adopted by the Board that apply to each school for accreditation. The bill allows a school to appeal to the Board on a withdrawn accreditation. The Board could incorporate an appeal in the course of a regularly scheduled business meeting.

Background: In CY 2000, the Board met 11 times (two days per meeting). In CY 2001, the Board met eight times (two days per meeting) and met in a ninth meeting for one day.

School Accreditation: Under current law, the Board is the only entity that may accredit schools. Accreditation is determined by compliance with the following components: health and safety, minimum time for school activities, staff-to-student ratio, curriculum offerings, development and implementation of staff evaluation plans, and school improvement planning. There are three types of accreditation: five-year full status, two-year full status, and probationary status. Currently, 11 schools are on probationary status. Schools on probationary status are not allowed to participate in Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) events. School accreditation status is reviewed in cycles, with approximately 350 schools reviewed per year.

Under P.L. 221-1999, a school may also be accredited by implementing a quality-focused approach to school improvement. Examples include the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for Education or a national or regional accreditation agency that is recommended by the Education Roundtable and approved by the Board.

Criteria for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for Education include: Leadership; Strategic Planning; Student, Stakeholder, and Market Focus; Information and Analysis; Faculty and Staff Focus; Process Management; and Organizational Performance Results. Each criteria has a point total assigned for a total maximum score of 1000 points.

In 2005-2006, additional changes will occur to the accreditation system, which includes an accreditation review cycle reduction from five to three years.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary:* Under the bill, schools would be required to cover the costs of rescoring or invalidation of ISTEP test results if actions have been taken by employees of the school to alter them. The FY 2003 average cost to administrate and develop ISTEP+ is approximately \$10,000 per school.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Board of Education; Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: Terry Spradlin, Indiana Department of Education (317) 232-6671; Wes Bruce, Indiana Department of Education, (317) 232-9050; Indiana State Board of Education Website: www.doe.state.in.us/stateboard/; Indiana Department of Education: *Indiana School Accountability: Accreditation Reference Guide, January 2002*; Baldrige National Quality Program: *Education Criteria for Performance Excellence 2002*.

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